

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1-99. (Canceled)

100. (Previously Presented) An oligonucleotide having the following structure:
5' T*C₃*T*C₃*T*T*T*G*A*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*T*C₃*T*T 3' (SEQ ID NO: 313),
wherein * refers to the presence of a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage, and wherein _ refers to the presence of a phosphodiester internucleotide linkage and wherein the oligonucleotide has a length of 24-40 nucleotides.

101. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 100, wherein the oligonucleotide consists essentially of 5'
T*C₃*T*T*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*A*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*T*C₃*T*T 3' (SEQ ID NO: 313).

102. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 100, wherein the oligonucleotide consists of 5' T*C₃*T*T*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*A*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*T*C₃*T*T 3' (SEQ ID NO: 313).

103-104. (Canceled)

105. (Previously Presented) An oligonucleotide having the following structure: 5'
T*C₃*T*T*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*A*C₃*T*T*T*T*G*T*C₃*T*T 3' (SEQ ID NO: 313) wherein each * refers to a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage and each _ refers to a phosphodiester internucleotide linkage, and wherein the oligonucleotide is 24 nucleotides in length.

106. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an oligonucleotide as defined in claim 100 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

107. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an oligonucleotide as defined in claim 105 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

108. (Currently amended) An immunostimulatory ~~nucleic acid molecule~~ oligonucleotide having at least one internal cytosine-guanine (CG) dinucleotide ~~and a chimeric backbone~~, wherein the at least one internal CG dinucleotide has a phosphodiester internucleotide linkage, wherein optionally each additional internal ~~YZ~~ CG dinucleotide has a phosphodiester or stabilized internucleotide linkage, and wherein all other internucleotide linkages are stabilized with a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

109. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 108, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises a plurality of internal CG dinucleotides having a phosphodiester internucleotide linkage.

110. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 108, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid molecule is a B-Class immunostimulatory nucleic acid molecule.

111. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 108, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid molecule is 4-100 nucleotides long.

112. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 108, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid molecule is not an antisense oligonucleotide, triple-helix-forming oligonucleotide, or ribozyme.

113. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 108, wherein the nucleic acid has a backbone comprising deoxyribose or ribose.

114-118. (Canceled)